

MI VIA VENDOR STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE

MINUTES

1/13/2026

Attendees: Angelique Tafoya, Cristalina Ford, Johanna Armendariz, Kayana Romo, Tonya Abernathy, Eddie Romero, Ermanda King-Begay, Casandra DeCamp, Jessica Gutierrez, Jennifer Madrid, Jim Copeland, Kathy Briseno, Andrea Perea, Steven Wrigley, Karen Garcia, Alexis Hernandez, Ryan Sherman, Tracy Perry, Molly Duersch, Yvette Unkestine, Mona Martinez, Leon Reval, Crystal Lopez-Beck, Jennifer Hollins, Jessica Jaramillo, Lisa Sisneros Brow, Fallon Vincell, Maria W, Bernadine Leekela

State Partners: Elaine Hill

Discussion

- **Review of the November 2025 meeting minutes:** Discussion on action items from the November meeting, noting that Selina was unable to attend. Reminder that the December meeting was cancelled due to HCA presentation at the LFC. Elaine provided updates on several items, including the finalization of a frequently asked questions document and the status of a proposal for in-home living support, which is currently on hold for further feedback. The group was encouraged to share any comments or suggestions regarding the in-home studies. Angelique reviewed the action items from the previous meeting.
- **Clarification on In-Home Living Standards:** Angelique questioned the requirement for in-home living services, particularly if caregivers need to reside with clients. Elaine acknowledged the ambiguity in the standards and indicated that they are reviewing the language to clarify whether caregivers can provide services without living in the home. Jennifer Madrid supported the need for clarification, sharing her experience with a request for in-home services. It was also noted that IHLS providers who do not reside with the participant may not qualify for the Difficulty of Care tax-exempt status. There was also discussion about the difference between Homemaker services and IHLS.
- **Discussion on Exception Rates and Service Support Plans:** Jennifer Madrid questioned the guidelines for exception rates, specifically whether to adhere to the budget or the minimum of four hours. Elaine responded that the approved exception rate in the service support plan should be followed, provided it has been reviewed by the third-party assessor. She encouraged Jennifer to share specific examples for further clarification.
- **Allowance to use a CSV file:** Elaine confirmed that the final draft phase for the CSV file is in progress and welcomed any additional comments. Angelique expressed her concerns regarding the absence of updates on the test group for the CSV file migration and turquoise claims. Lisa proposed the need for a test group for turquoise claims, citing past problems, and both she and Angelique offered to follow up on the matter.
- **Meeting Schedule and Updates for 2026:** Elaine asked for the meeting schedule and agendas for 2026, which Angelique agreed to provide. She noted that the committee meeting cadence is every Tuesday from 10 to 11 AM. Angelique also mentioned that she would cancel any previous meeting invites and issue new ones with updated links.
- **Gross Receipts Tax Implementation:** Lisa raised concerns about the billing process for speech therapy services, emphasizing the complications that arise from differing GRT rates based on service location and client residence. She explained that if a service is billed at a rate not aligned with the budget, it could lead to payment issues, since only the budgeted rate would be honored. It was noted that if services are provided across multiple counties, CCSI might need to account for various GRT rates.
- **Discussion on Gross Receipts Tax Concerns:** Elaine advised Lisa to contact Melanie Buenviaje regarding gross receipts tax issues, noting that each county has different tax rates. Angelique suggested that any response from Melanie should be shared widely, as it could be relevant to others. Cassandra highlighted concerns about GRT not being broken down on invoices and the varying rates within counties, seeking clarification on how GRT is calculated and communicated to vendors.

- **Discussion on Medicaid and Homemaker Services:** Jim expressed concerns about the implications of the CMS access rule on the homemaker service included in the Mi Via waiver, particularly regarding compliance with the 80-20 payment adequacy provision. He highlighted that this clarification could impact service provision and accessibility. Elaine responded positively, indicating she would draft a request for clarification based on his inquiry.
- **Discussion on Reimbursement Rates and Action Items:** Angelique outlined several action items for Elaine, such as checking on the Frequently Asked Questions document and gathering feedback on home studies. Tonya expressed confusion over the large gap in reimbursement rates for similar one-on-one support services, which Elaine acknowledged as a significant concern and encouraged further discussion with Alix Dean.
- **Communication and Collaboration Among Committees:** Angelique highlighted the need for better communication between vendors and consultants to minimize discrepancies in information shared across different committees. She requested support in ensuring that all relevant discussions are shared transparently among the groups. Additionally, Elaine provided clarification on the employment rate, indicating that the fee structure may vary and that further clarification would be sought.
- **ACQ Website:** No new information at this time. Angelique will share the requested information with Elaine.
- **Information from Teams chat:** Two HCA email addresses were shared:
 - Melanie Buenviaje melanie.buenviaje@hca.nm.gov
 - Alix Dean alix.dean@hca.nm.gov
- **Action Items:**
 - Angelique will send 2026 meeting invites to group
 - Action Items from November 2025 meeting:
 - Selina will finalize and distribute a frequently asked questions document regarding in-home living support requirements.
 - Selina will confirm the database's capability for data migration and provide an update to the group. Elaine noted that the Training Unit is working on this.
 - Elaine will provide clarification and guidance on the exception process for hospitalizations and share the original memo with the group. Per Elaine, a memo is currently with leadership. She could possibly have it by end of the week.
 - Selina will send a proposal regarding the implementation of home studies for participants receiving in-home living supports to Angelique to distribute to the group. Per Elaine, DDS is pausing on this - please send your feedback to Selina.
 - New Action Items:
 - Angelique will forward feedback from Selina and Elaine on memos and action items as they are received or with the next meeting minutes.
 - Lisa will follow up with Jen about testing turquoise claims and the formation of a CSV testing group.
 - Elaine will follow up with Scott regarding the ACQ website to ensure the Mi Via Vendor Stakeholder Committee's information is included.
 - Angelique will send information to Elaine about the ACQ website to ensure agendas, minutes, and upcoming meetings are available.
 - Lisa will email Melanie regarding the gross receipts tax issues and seek clarification on the requirements.
 - Angelique will email Kelley with the committee's 2026 meeting dates.

Next Mi Via Vendor Committee Meeting: February 10th 2026

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Meeting ID: 267 837 093 271 7

Passcode: cs2FZ7vA